Approved For Release 2007/09/26 : CIA-RDP85-00024R000300030015-3

NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

17 August 1981

NOTE FOR: Director, FBIS

SUBJECT:

Unsolicited Proposal to Survey the Printing Media of Latin America and

the Caribbean

I have had our Office of Central Reference review the attached unsolicited proposal to survey the printed media of Latin America and the Caribbean. They have done so, and have expressed some interest in pursuing it. They have advised me, however, that FBIS is more properly the Agency component to oversee such work.

Would you please have the proposal reviewed and let me know what you think? Thanks.

> R. E. Hineman DD/NFAC

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REMARKS

Chief/Prod's observations are right on mark. We already know much of the information to be gathered, and what we don't know isn't necessary for our operation. Further, if we do need to know something more about our sources, we ask the embassies. Additionally, our IO's take advantage of orientation trips to check on new publications. In sum, see no gain for us from such study.

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NFAC 5099-81 STAT

August 11, 1981

Mr. John McMahon Director National Foreign Assessment Center Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D. C. 20505

Mr. McMahon:

Enclosed is a one page outline of a program to fully study the printed media of Latin America and the Caribbean.

I will require both institutional and financial backing in order to carry out the study.

I anticipate having the endorsement of the Inter American Press Association, with which I was employed, though they would be unable to offer the type of financial support I need.

I would welcome knowing if this type of program fits within the Agency's parameters, and if so, how might we further study its potential development? May I know your thoughts?

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OUTLINE

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PRINTED MEDIA

This three part project will supply, at its conclusion, the following:

- A. A listing, brief description and sample of the printed media of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- B. A country-by-country analysis.
- C. A summary and analysis of the area's printed media.
- A. Each country will be visited, with the larger countries being visited several times, at which time samples of its printed media will be purchased, logged and described according to circulation, political or trade affiliation (if any), reader profile, area of distribution, a copy of the audited circulation, brief description of the publication, including area of coverage and appeal, as well as assessment of production quality and analysis of advertising content. All elements will be included contingent upon their availability.
- B. The country will be studied in terms of the overall quality of its printed media, sectoral development and lack of and sponsorship of the media. A brief overview of the history of its printed media versus its status today and brief promostication of potential areas of development. The results will be studied in light of interviews that will be held with members of the various media within and without the country (if the media's impact is international) as well as with select public and private leaders that could afford an opinion as to its value vis-a-vis the various sectors. Political leanings will be noted in order to arrive at the most objective analysis possible.
- C. Based on previous development of categories A and B, an areal overview will be prepared taking into account present status, trends and potential areas for development while aiming at providing a complete picture of the status of the region's printed mec Approved For Release 2007/09/26: CIA-RDP85-00024R000300030015-3